

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 280 entitled “An act relating to the Advisory Council for Strengthening
4 Families” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all
6 after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. ~~CHILD POVERTY~~ ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD POVERTY
8 AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

9 (a)(1) Creation. There is created the Advisory Council on Child Poverty
10 and Strengthening Families to:

11 (A) identify and examine structural issues in Vermont that:

12 (i) lead to families living in poverty; and

13 (ii) create conditions that prevent families from moving out of
14 poverty; and

15 (B) advance policies that:

16 (i) support safety nets for families with low income; and

17 (ii) mitigate the generational effects of poverty.

18 (2) The Advisory Council shall provide guidance and recommend
19 legislation policies to the General Assembly that either reduce incidences of or
20 mitigate the effects of childhood poverty.

1 (b)(1) Voting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of
2 the following 13 voting members:

3 (A) three members of the Senate, not all from the same political
4 party, appointed by the Committee on Committees, including one member
5 from the Committee on Education and one member from the Committee on
6 Health and Welfare;

7 (B) three members of the House, not all from the same political party,
8 appointed by the Speaker of House, including one member from the
9 Committee on Education and one member from the Committee on Human
10 Services;

11 (C) a member appointed by Voices for Vermont’s Children;

12 (D) a member appointed by the Vermont Low Income Advocacy
13 Council;

14 (E) a member appointed by Vermont Legal Aid;

15 (F) a member appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability
16 Rights;

17 (G) a member appointed by the Vermont Affordable Housing
18 Coalition;

19 (H) a nongovernmental designee of the Child and Family Trauma
20 Work Group who does not otherwise represent an organization with
21 membership on this Council; and

1 (I) an employee of the prekindergarten through grade 12 public
2 education delivery system in Vermont appointed jointly by the Executive
3 Directors of the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals’
4 Association, and the Vermont Council of Special Education Coordinators.

5 (2) Nonvoting membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed
6 of the following five nonvoting members or designees:

7 (A) the Secretary of Education;

8 (B) the Secretary of Human Services;

9 (C) the Commissioner for Children and Families;

10 (D) the Commissioner of Health; and

11 (E) the Commissioner of Labor.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Council shall examine structural
13 issues in Vermont that create conditions that prevent families from moving out
14 of poverty and shall provide related guidance and recommendations to the
15 General Assembly. It shall serve as an educational forum for both its members
16 and the public. The Council It shall use data to understand better existing and
17 emerging challenges to children and families living in poverty.

18 (d) Assistance. The Advisory Council shall have the administrative,
19 technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the
20 Joint Fiscal Office.

1 (e) Work products.

2 (1) Compilation of minutes. On or before January 1 of each year, the
3 Advisory Council shall submit to the General Assembly a compilation of its
4 meeting minutes from the previous calendar year that summarizes the Advisory
5 Council’s activities and decisions.

6 (2) Recommendations. On or before January 1 of each year, the
7 Advisory Council ~~may shall~~ submit a list of policy recommendations and
8 legislative priorities from the previous calendar year to the General Assembly
9 or to the appropriate State agency or organization that are aimed at reducing
10 incidences of or mitigating the effects of childhood poverty.

11 (3) Legislation. On or before November 15 of each year, the Advisory
12 Council may prepare legislation for introduction by one or more of its
13 legislative members that contains any of the Advisory Council’s policy
14 recommendations for reducing incidences of or mitigating the effects of
15 childhood poverty.

16 (f) Meetings.

17 (1) The member of the House Committee on Human Services shall call
18 the first meeting of the Advisory Council to occur on or before July 1 of each
19 year.

1 (2) Each year the Advisory Council shall select a chair from among its
2 legislative members at the first meeting. The Advisory Council may select a
3 vice chair from among its legislative members.

4 (3) A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

5 (4) At least once annually, the Advisory Council shall meet in a location
6 other than the State House for the purpose of receiving testimony from
7 members of Vermont families experiencing poverty or organizations providing
8 direct services to Vermont families experiencing poverty.

9 (5)(A) The Advisory Council shall cease to exist on July 1, 2028.

10 (B) Five years prior, in 2023, the Advisory Council shall conduct a
11 midterm review of its achievements and effectiveness using results-based
12 accountability. Among any other benchmarks that the Advisory Council
13 chooses to measure pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (5), it shall
14 review, as compared to 2016:

15 (i) the number and percentage of children living in families at
16 50 percent, 100 percent, and 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

17 (ii) the number and percentage of children living in families
18 paying more than 30 percent of their cash income for housing and related
19 expenses.

20 (C) On or before January 1, 2019, the Advisory Council shall identify
21 any additional benchmarks it plans to measure during its 2023 midterm review.

1 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

2 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
3 Assembly, a legislative member of the Advisory Council serving in his or her
4 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
5 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than six
6 meetings.

7 (2) Other members of the Advisory Council who are not employees of
8 the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed
9 for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
10 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six
11 meetings.

12 (3) Payments to members of the Advisory Council authorized under this
13 subsection shall be made from monies appropriated by the General Assembly.

14 Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 60, Sec. 23(h) is amended to read:

15 (h) Sunset. On June 1, ~~2018~~ 2021, this section (creating the Joint
16 Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee) is repealed and the
17 Committee shall cease to exist.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on ~~July 1, 2018~~ on passage.

20 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
21 to the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families”

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE